

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed January 25, 2008 the Office noted that claims 1-6 and 8 were pending and rejected claims 1-6 and 8. Claims 1-10 have been amended, no claims have been canceled, and, thus, in view of the foregoing claims 1-10 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Office's rejections and objections are traversed below.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Applicant acknowledges the Office's statement regarding the Information Disclosure Statement and files an Information Disclosure Statement including the references cited in the foreign search report in a separate filing.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

The Applicant acknowledges the Office's rejection of entry of the Preliminary Amendment for failure to conform to the requirements of MPEP 608.01.

The Applicant resubmits the amendment herein.

ABSTRACT

The Abstract is objected to for failure to be submitted on a separate sheet. The Abstract of the Disclosure is included on a separate sheet in the Appendix of this Amendment.

DRAWINGS

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for

failing to show every feature specified in the claims. The Office asserts that "the handling of the vessel" and the evacuation means" are not illustrated in the figures.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite an "emptying means" rather than an evacuation means. Further, the word "handling" has been amended to recite cradling. A "cradle" as defined throughout the Specification is capable of cradling a vessel.

Further, Figures 2 and 4 are objected to for failing to show motion in the drawings using standard practice.

The Applicants respectfully disagree. Figure 2 shows a front view of the device and figure 4 shows an additional view of a portion of the device of figure 2. The Figures taken with the Specification would allow one of ordinary skill in the art to practice the invention.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTION

The application is objected to because of alterations which were not initialed and/or dated as is required by CFR 1.52(c). The Applicant submits a substitute declaration herewith.

Claims 7 and 9-10 are objected to for improper form. In particular, the claims are multiple dependent claims that are not recited in the alternative. Claims 7 and 9 have been amended.

Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and sixth paragraph for failing to have a corresponding "evacuation's means" defined in the specification. The claims have been amended to recite an "emptying means" and "cradling."

Claims 1-6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Applicants have amended the claims to recite "emptying means" rather than "evacuation's means" and "cradling a vessel" rather than "handling a vessel."

Claims 1-6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-10 have been amended to more fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY

It is submitted that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. It is also submitted that claims 1-10 continue to be allowable. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- ☐ - a terminal disclaimer
- ☐ - a 37 CFR 1.132 Declaration
- ☒ - a new or amended Abstract of the Disclosure
- ☒ - Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney
- ☐ - a Replacement Sheet for Figure of the drawings
- ☐ - a Substitute Specification and a marked-up copy of the
originally-filed specification
- ☐ - a verified English translation of foreign priority document